

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 22, line 21 to page 23, line 7 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

--Subsequently, the feed out roll 20 is stopped to cancel the feed of the support film 10, and the fixing roll 22 is moved by a mechanism 220 (shown in Fig. 8) toward the frame member 18 while pressing the support film 10 between the wind-up roll 26 and a fixed end of the support film 10 (feed out roll 20). Consequently, the protective tape 12 that has been previously positioned between the wind-up roll 26 and the fixing roll 22 is transferred away from the wind-up roll 26 in a direction opposite to the wind-up direction. The protective tape 12 is then transferred via the fixing roll 22 and is arranged so as to be included in the frame of the frame member 18 (Fig. 7(b)).--

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 23, lines 11-18 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

--Subsequently, the frame member 18 and the mounting table 16 are aligned by relative movements as necessary; for example, the protective tape 12 and the wafer 14 are approximated and opposed to each other with a clearance of about 1 to 3 mm. Thereafter, the sticking roll 24 is moved by a mechanism 240 (shown in Fig. 8) on the upper surface of the frame member 18 (Fig. 7(c) and Fig. 8) and is rotated over the framed support film 10 to press the same and to stick the protective tape 12 to the wafer 14 (Fig. 7(d)).--